



Department of Justice

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Northern District of New York

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[Plattsburgh, New York]—United States Attorney Richard S. Hartunian and Special Agent in Charge Lev J. Kubiak announces that HASAN CEKIC was found guilty of possession of a weapon by a prohibited person after a trial by jury.

CEKIC was originally indicted on June 24, 2009 and charged with one-count of Possession of Firearm by a Prohibited person in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Section 922(g)(1). On June 29, 2010, CEKIC was found guilty of the sole count in the indictment after a two-day trial in Syracuse, New York, which was presided over by United States District Court Judge Glenn T. Suddaby.

On June 8, 2009, agents from the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Task Force in Rouses Point, New York executed a search warrant at CEKIC's residence at the Golden Gate Motel in Plattsburgh, New York. During the search, ICE agents discovered five rifles, a pistol concealed in a hidden compartment located in a black leather vest, and ammunition for each of the weapons. During their investigation, agents discovered that CEKIC has a prior felony conviction. On August 15, 1980, CEKIC was convicted in Kings County Court of attempted criminal possession of a weapon in the second degree and sentenced to five years probation. CEKIC's prior felony conviction prohibited him from possessing firearms.

At the time of his arrest on June 7, 2009, HASAN CEKIC, 58, was a resident of Plattsburgh, New York and also had a residence in Johnson City, New York. Following the jury's guilty verdict, Judge Suddaby ordered the Defendant remanded to the custody of the United States Marshals.

CEKIC is a citizen and national of Bosnia and has remained in the United States as a lawful permanent resident since 1973. CEKIC will be sentenced on October 29, 2010 before Judge Suddaby in Syracuse, New York. CEKIC faces a maximum penalty of up to ten (10) years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, or both, and a period of up to three years supervised release to follow any term of imprisonment. As a lawful permanent resident, CEKIC is an alien and may be ordered removed from the United States.

The indictment and prosecution of CEKIC was the result of an investigation by Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Plattsburgh Police Department, Customs and Border Protection and the United States Border Patrol. The case was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner.

"This conviction again demonstrates our joint resolve, working alongside our federal, state and local law enforcement partners, to protect our homeland and secure our northern border," said J. Michael Kennedy, acting special agent in charge of ICE Homeland Security Investigations in Buffalo. "Convicted criminals who possess firearms are a threat to our security, and they are on notice that they will be arrested and brought to justice."

Inquiries may be directed to Assistant U.S. Attorney Daniel C. Gardner at (518) 314-7800.